

ANIMAL FARM

By George Orwell





Meet All the Characters

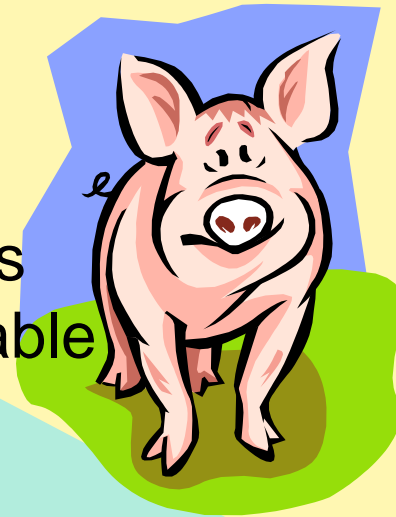
OLD MAJOR



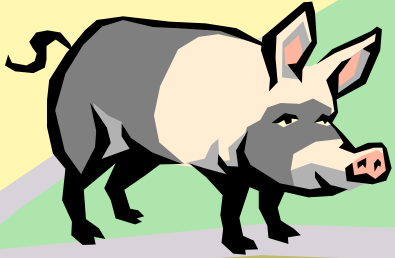
An old boar whose speech rouses the animals into rebellion. His philosophy is called Animalism. He teaches the animals the song of freedom “Beasts of England.”

Snowball

He is a young boar who becomes one of the rebellion’s most valuable leaders. He develops ideas to make the animals’ lives easier.

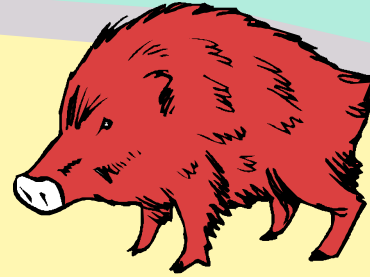


Squealer

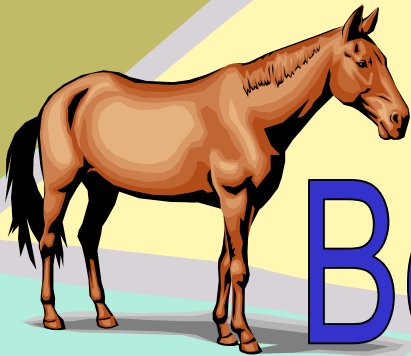


A porker pig who becomes Napoleon's mouthpiece. He uses his ability to manipulate the animals.

Napoleon



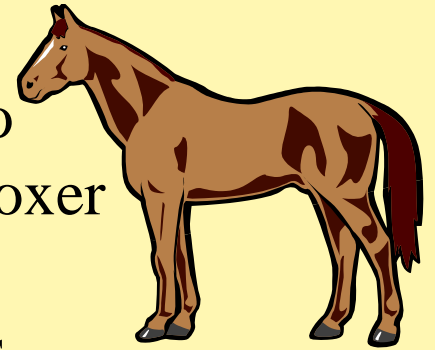
A boar, who with Snowball, leads the rebellion against Jones. He uses power to have his way.



Boxer

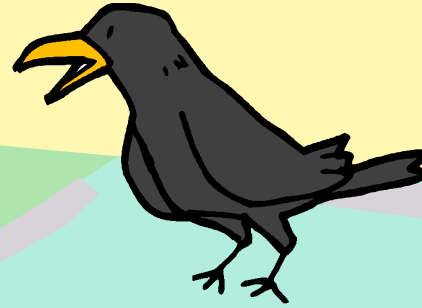
A dedicated hard worker. He keeps believing that hard work solves all problems.

A motherly horse who tries to take care of Boxer and who silently questions Napoleon's decisions.

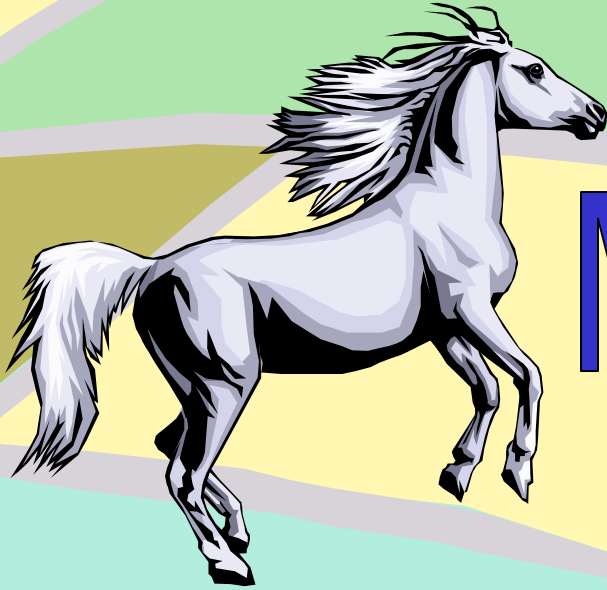


Clover

A tame raven who tells the animals stories about a paradise called Sugarcandy Mountain.



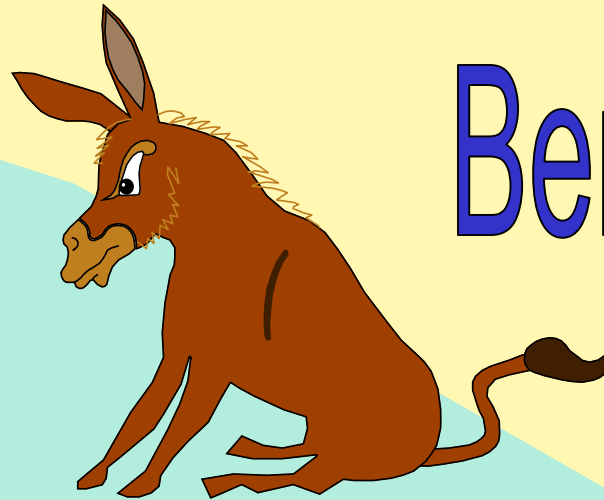
Moses



Mollie

A vain horse who prefers ribbons and sugar over ideas and rebellion.

A cynical, pessimistic donkey who continually undercuts the animals' enthusiasm.



Benjamin

Mr. Jones

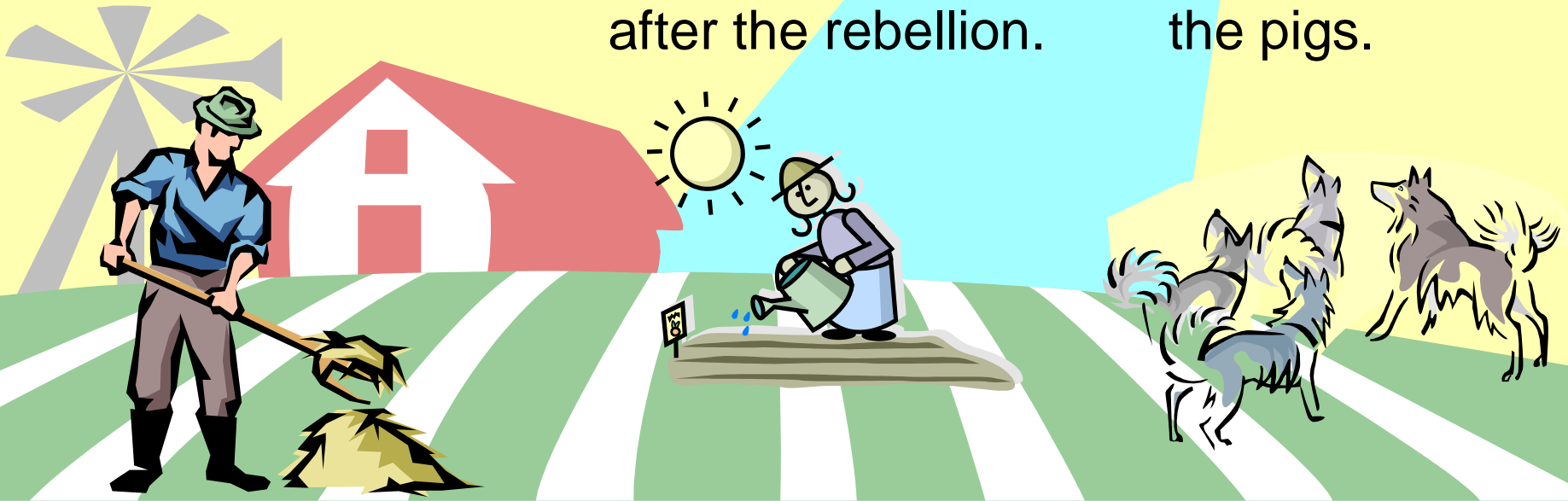
The often drunk owner of Manor Farm, later expelled by the animals.

Mrs. Jones

The farmer's wife who flees from the farm after the rebellion.

The Puppies

The puppies that are raised in secret with the pigs.





Mr. Pilkington

The owner of Foxwood,
another farm.

Mr. Whymper

A solicitor hired
by Napoleon to act
as an intermediary
in Animal Farm's
trading with other
farms.



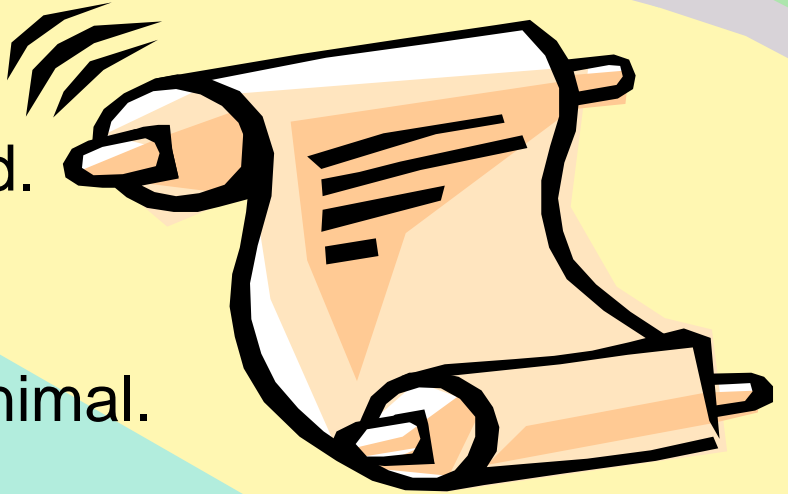
An enemy of
Pilkington
and owner of
Pinchfield,
another farm.

Mr. Frederick



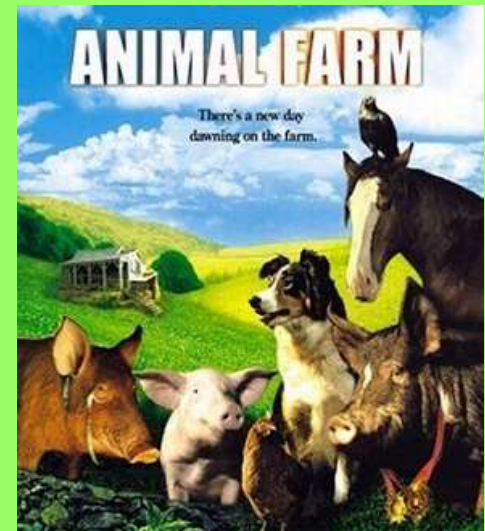
The Seven Commandments

1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings is a friend.
3. No animal shall wear clothes.
4. No animal shall sleep in a bed.
5. No animal shall drink alcohol.
6. No animal shall kill another animal.
7. All animals are equal.



What is *Animal Farm*?

- A masterpiece of political satire, *Animal Farm* is a tale of oppressed individuals who long for freedom.
- The story traces the deplorable conditions of mistreated animals who can speak and who exhibit many human characteristics. After extreme negligence by their owner, the animals revolt and expel Mr. Jones and his wife from the farm.
- The tale of the society the animals form into a totalitarian regime meant to represent the communist system in the former USSR.



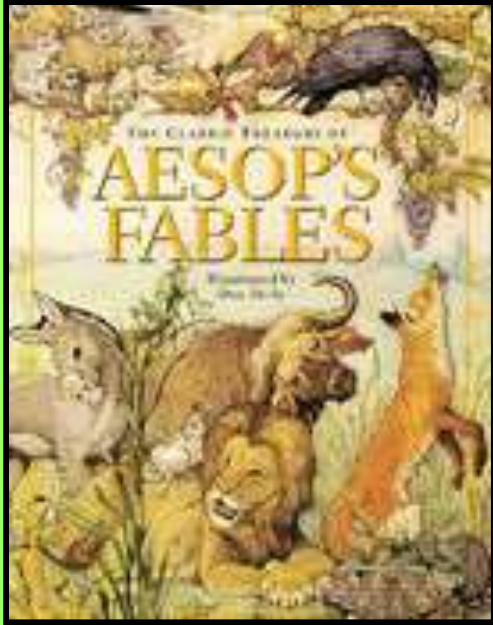
**Interesting Fact: Orwell initially struggled to find a publisher for *Animal Farm*. He also had to fight to have his work sold in the adult literature section...
...for reasons we will cover after this slide.**

Children's Book? – No!

- After *Animal Farm* was published in 1945, George Orwell discovered with horror that booksellers were placing his novel on children's shelves. According to his housekeeper, he began traveling from bookstore to bookstore requesting that the book be shelved with adult works. This dual identity — as children's story and adult satire — has stayed with Orwell's novel for more than fifty years.



The Animal Fable



– *The fable is usually short, written in either verse or prose, and conveys a clear moral or message.* The earliest fables come from 6th Century Greece B.C. The author of these fables, Aesop, used animal characters to stand for human "types." For example, a fox character might embody the human characteristics of cunning and cleverness. Though Aesop's animal fables were ostensibly about animals, they were really instructional tales about human emotions and human behavior.

“The Ant and the Dove”

by Aesop

- An Ant went to the bank of a river to quench its thirst, and being carried away by the rush of the stream, was on the point of drowning. A Dove sitting on a tree overhanging the water plucked a leaf and let it fall into the stream close to her. The Ant climbed onto it and floated in safety to the bank. Shortly afterwards a birdcatcher came and stood under the tree, and laid his lime-twigs for the Dove, which sat in the branches. The Ant, perceiving his design, stung him in the foot. In pain the birdcatcher threw down the twigs, and the noise made the Dove take wing.

- *What is the moral?*



Allegory

- Most fables have two levels of meaning. On the surface, the fable is about animals. But on a second level, the animals stand for types of people or ideas. The way the animals interact and the way the plot unfolds says something about the nature of people or the value of ideas. *Any type of fiction that has multiple levels of meaning in this way is called an **allegory**.*



=



Allegory (cont' d)

- *Animal Farm* is strongly allegorical, but it presents a very nice balance between levels of meaning. On the first level, the story about the animals is very moving. But at the same time, each of the animals does serve as a symbol. The story's second level involves the careful critique Orwell constructed to comment on Soviet Russia.



Squealer, Snowball, & Napoleon

What is **Satire**?

- In **Satire**, human vices, follies, abuses, and shortcomings are exaggerated to ridicule and shame those who are guilty of them.
- Satire is often, but not always, funny. The main purpose is to use wit as a weapon of constructive social criticism.
- For satire to be very effective, it will emulate a style or genre perfectly to make the content of that work seem all the more surprising and convincing. Often there are hidden meanings that must be deciphered to fully understand the satire.

Satire

- Orwell uses satire to expose what he saw as the myth of Soviet socialism. That is his purpose and motivation for writing *Animal Farm*.
- Thus, the novel tells the story that people of all ages can understand about a farm and animals, but through this simple story, Orwell can satirically attack “Communism” and how people in power abuse and manipulate their subjects.



Soviet Coat of Arms

What are some examples of satirical elements, old or new?

- ✓ ***Gulliver's Travels***
- ✓ ***Oliver Twist***
- ✓ ***The Onion***
- ✓ ***The Daily Show***
- ✓ ***The Colbert Show***
- ✓ ***South Park***
- ✓ ***Dr. Seuss!!!***
- ✓ ***Lord of the Flies***
- ✓ ***Nineteen Eighty-Four***
- ✓ ***American Psycho***
- ✓ ***Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy***
- ✓ ***Lysistrata***
- ✓ ***Huckleberry Finn***

Enjoy the story.

